



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Operations Directorate — Fact Sheet

Memorandum of Agreement Concerning DoD-CIA Mutual Support for Personnel Recovery

ISSUE: Memorandum of Agreement Concerning DoD-CIA Mutual Support in Policy, Research and Development, Training, Planning, and Operations for Personnel Recovery

BACKGROUND: In October and December 1995, the Secretary of Defense and Director of Central Intelligence signed the original “Memorandum of Agreement Concerning DoD-CIA Mutual Support in Policy, Research and Development, Training, Planning, and Operations for Personnel Recovery.” The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was to ensure unity of purpose and coordinated mutual support by DoD and the CIA on matters involving policy, research and development, training, planning, and operations for personnel recovery. It pledges that DoD and CIA shall assist, to the extent possible, in the recovery efforts of the other signatory upon request.

DISCUSSION: This MOA is not simply an intelligence sharing agreement. It is much broader than that. It includes all aspects of support between the Department and CIA; operational, intelligence, etc. The combatant commands use this MOA extensively when coordinating non-conventional assisted recovery matters.

We also formed an MOA Oversight Council, composed of DASD (POW/Missing Personnel Affairs); the Chief, Military & Special Projects, CIA; Policy Support, DIA; and the Joint Staff. The purpose of the Oversight Council is to provide a forum for members to work collaboratively to develop, review, and recommend actions and initiatives to support the MOA. The original intent was for this Council to meet quarterly on an “as needed” basis, but we have not had a meeting in over two years.

The principals signed the original MOA when ASD(SO/LIC) had prepotency for personnel recovery policy oversight. DPMO staffed a revision to the MOA that the SECDEF and DCI signed in May/July 1998, respectively.